

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND CULTURE

State Office of Ethnic Affairs



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Mission

**To ensure Utah state government
adequately meets the
needs of Utah's ethnic community.**

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Math S.T.A.R. Education Conference

OEA sponsored this conference for parents and students in an effort to provide them with more information regarding high stakes testing, new graduation requirements and how to help children be successful in grades k-12. There were approximately 300 individuals who attended with a total of 89 students awarded for their math excellence.

MLK Luncheon

Each year in January the Utah Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission holds its annual Drum Major Awards Luncheon. It has two main objectives. The first is to recognize individuals, companies, and organizations for their commitment to diversity and community service with the "Drum Major Award." To qualify for the award, organizations must demonstrate how they conduct business as it relates to the Commission's motto, "Unity through Diversity." Drum Major Award Recipients must exemplify diversity and community service. The second objective is to expose our Adopt-A-School students to community leaders hoping to inspire their becoming active in the community via volunteer service. Over 500 individuals attended the luncheon.



Ethnic Business Conference

OEA sponsored its first annual "Achieving Success" business conference. The business conference was designed for entrepreneurs and existing business owners. The conference featured result driven workshops on marketing, financing, and government contracts. Over 500 participants attended the conference.

Adopt-A-School “What’s Your Dream?”-Art, Essay and Poetry Project

OEA and the MLK Commission sponsored the “What’s Your Dream” art, essay, and poetry contest designed for students to express their dream. Based on Dr. King’s famous “I have a Dream” speech, students are encouraged to develop an art, essay or poetry project which expresses their dreams. Work submitted ranged from having world peace, saving the environment, discovering a cure for a life threatening disease, reaching a desired profession or goal, helping those who are mentally or physically challenged or stopping violence.

Adopt-A-School Program

The Adopt-A-School Program is programming provided by the MLK Commission and the Office of Ethnic Affairs. Its objective is to focus on the importance of respect,



acceptance and understanding for all people. The program runs for seven months starting in October - May. School presentations are excluded in January due to the MLK Commission’s programming, e.g., the Drum Major Awards Luncheon, opening day of the legislative session presentation, MLK & Salt Lake County Art, Essay and Poetry recognition celebration.

The program consists of one or two-35 minute presentations (as agreed by the Adopt-A-School and the MLK Commission) given by

volunteers from Utah’s ethnic community who are affiliated with the MLK commission. Presenters discuss and provide information about their cultural/ethnic history & their personal challenges via group interaction, power-point presentation, displays or props.

The Adopt-A-School Program also seeks to dispel stereotypes and to assist students in understanding the importance of living in a multicultural, multi-ethnic, multi- racial world.

The schools participating in the Adopt-A-School Program included: Iqra Academy; Dixie Downs Elementary; Mexican Hat Elementary; Moab Charter School; South Jordan Elementary; Sunset Elementary; Timpanogos Elementary and Vista Elementary,

Building Bridges Program

The Building Bridges Program was a series of meetings with the objective of uniting and building a bridge of understanding and friendship between the African American Community and the Continental Black African Community. This resulted in the organization of the Utah African Untied Organization, a 501c3 organization whose mission is to assist members of the Continental Black African Community by providing resources and information available within the various state agencies in the state of Utah.



Family Unity and Community Conference

The Family Unity and Community Education conference was organized as an effort to promote family and community by providing an opportunity for people of all colors, races, ethnicities and faith based organizations to celebrate Black History Month. The conference featured workshops, vendors/information tables and

musical/art performance all within a centralized location of the Salt Lake Community College Student Union Building. This conference also provided an opportunity for state agencies to provide information regarding services and job opportunities to members of the ethnic community. Proceeds from the event went to establish an emergency scholarship fund for university students throughout the state

Dan Hola Education Conference

The OEA sponsored and organized the 2nd Annual Dan Hola education conference. The conference specifically focuses on Pacific Islander students, recognizing those who have maintained a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or better. In addition, seniors are given scholarships provided by Dan Hola. The scholarships go directly to the college/university that the student will be enrolling in.

Office of Ethnic Affairs Ongoing Resources

OEA's website has a list of community resources, community based organization and media lists as well as a frequently asked section for organizations and constituents.

OEA provides an online calendar for posting state agencies, community based organization and nonprofit organizations events. Events entered in the online calendar include: State of Utah government agency events (e.g. board and commission meetings, health department, department of public safety), events sponsored by Utah government, events sponsored by non-profit organizations, which promote cultural awareness (e.g. arts, celebrations) or education oriented (e.g. workshops, forums, conferences).

Weekly emailing announcements keep community based organizations and community members apprised of cultural and educational events in going on in the community. The emailing list contains over 700 contacts.

The Office of Ethnic Affairs has a Public Policy & Research list who we email to inform of upcoming interim committee meetings. OEA also updates the ethnic community on public policy analysis and research on different issues that impact the ethnic community.

In addition, OEA analyzes data on the ethnic population, tracks legislative issues, and provides fact sheets to educate the community and agencies regarding Utah's ethnic population

The Office of Ethnic Affairs answered phone calls and walk-ins regarding discrimination, business, immigration, medical referrals, and available resources.